

AlleghenyConnect Deliverables for Supt Advisory Council

I. What will districts be able to do when the AlleghenyConnect "switch is flipped?"

A. 24x7x365 Network Maintenance

Sunesys is the contractor responsible for maintaining the physical fiber optic cable that runs around Allegheny County and to/from the network center. their contract stipulates [detail needed]

B. 24x7x365 Data Center

Expedient provides the network connection to the "regular" Internet, Internet 2 and private bandwidth of AlleghenyConnect. They have a state-of-the-art data center that will host any and all servers that will be shared on the network, so that there is constant maintenance, monitoring and uptime provided by their technicians.

C. Digital Streaming Video

While we have been providing streaming digital video through the IMS Media Library for the past 6 years, those video streams had to compete with other information coming to your schools over the Internet connection you had. Now, this rich media will come to your staff and students on the private portion of the network with a much larger data capacity, so that many more videos can be streamed simultaneously, and there will be no "hiccups" in the flow of the video streams.

D. Videoconferencing unit

As far back as 1996, the AIU has been a leader in providing connections between schools for live videoconferencing. Funding from PA Act 183 (eFund) enables the acquisition of one videoconferencing unit for every district connected to AlleghenyConnect. These units can transmit video, audio and data for use in administrative meetings, student classes, and professional development.

E. Internet 2 Connection

For any of the multitude of rich resources available outside the state of Pennsylvania, we will use our connection to Internet 2 to bring those resources to your school. For example, if a classroom teacher wants to have her class study our monetary system, she can arrange for a "virtual field trip" to the US Mint in Denver. The Mint, and many other providers have established lesson plans and skilled facilitators to work with teachers and students for an authentic learning experience.

F. Private high-speed network between districts

The private portion of the bandwidth allows for exchange of information between districts that would have previously "clogged" the Internet connections of every district. The speed will be so tremendous that an email sent from one corner of Allegheny County to the opposite corner will get there as fast as an email sent from within a district. In practical terms, much of the administrative data that needs to be fed to PDE and other agencies will travel quickly to the network site before going out over the public Internet.

II. FAQs [detail needed]

- A. What is Internet 2?**
- B. What is the benefit to being connected to Internet 2?**
- C. How long will it take for everyone to be connected?**
- D. What is the speed of the network?**
- E. Who is building the network of fiber?**
- F. Who will be managing the network?**
- G. How is the network paid for?**
- H. What educational applications are planned for AlleghenyConnect?**